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LEHIGH UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Welcome to the fall semester and latest edition of Acumen. As this issue developed I was again excited and proud of the research and creative work taking place within the College of Arts and Sciences. The college remains a lively center of learning, and students are exposed to a wide variety of scholarship through talented, energized faculty, student interest in interdisciplinary education is growing at Lehigh and the college continues to promote curricula and programs that cross traditional academic boundaries. Interdisciplinary work requires students and faculty to work with a broad array of knowledge suited to complex global problems. Many of us graduated from college with degrees from traditional academic departments, but interdisciplinary education recognizes that many of today’s social, cultural, and economic challenges require that we reach for creative solutions that approach problems from numerous perspectives. Students and faculty find that interdisciplinary studies require them to stretch beyond their comfort zones and exercise flexibility in thinking through the application of a multiplicity of methods and theoretical traditions. The College of Arts and Sciences has 20 interdisciplinary programs in areas diverse as health, medicine, and society. Many students are pursuing interdisciplinary studies as part of their degree programs. As Lehigh alumni, you can play a role in these types of programs. As Lehigh alumni, you can help shape the future of today’s, and tomorrow’s, students. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and comments.

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This issue examines the impact of interdisciplinary education in the College of Arts and Sciences

Learning Across the Curriculum

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EDITOR
Robert Nichols
CAS ADVISORY BOARD
Donald E. Hall, dean
Diane Hyland, Jackie Krasavetz,
Dennis Quinlan, Cameron Wesley, associate deans

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Kathleen Jefkner
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Jack Cart
Leslie Fedman
Geoff Gehman ’89 M.A.
Abby Johnson ‘16
Jennifer Macarog
Robert Nichols
Mananee Waghi
PHOTOGRAPHERS
Douglas Benedict
Christa Neu
Kristoffer Duan-Bergman

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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Lehigh University
9 West Packer Avenue
Bethlehem, PA 18015
www.cas.lehigh.edu

READER FEEDBACK:
Please send comments to:
acumen@lehigh.edu
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LEHIGH UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Quilting as Art

Quilting has a centuries-old tradition. People in nearly every part of the world have used patterned fabrics for clothing and bedding. The quilt, as we know it in America, was originally a utilitarian article, born of the necessity to provide warm covers for beds. Quilting is also an art form being explored by artist Anna Chupa. Chupa, associate professor and chair of art, architecture and design, uses a long-arm quilting machine to create works inspired by Islamic architecture. She designs whole cloth quilts, where a single piece of fabric is used for the top layer, and the key decorative element is likely to be the pattern of stitching. Chupa typically produces works measuring approximately 25 inches by 36 inches. "Instead of the traditional pieced quilt, I create whole cloth quilts from my textile designs," says Chupa. "I can use the automated process with stitchery I have designed so that every step of the process, from the fabric to the quilt, is my design." Her felt designs are inspired by building designs found in southern Spain. From photographs she takes of architecture, flowers and foliage, she extracts object details and montages them into still life compositions. The long-arm allows her to "paint" with thread and sequins and utilize a technique called couching. Couching gives a quilt texture by using a stitch that allows fibers to be added onto the surface of the quilt. The result is a dense surface that resembles embroidery. Chupa sees her creative work transferring to the classroom. She room envisions offering a textile course stemming from her work in the quilting studio. "I think there's great potential to offer something that is interdisciplinary and would bring in students from other departments like theatre. We've never offered a textile course, and it will be exciting to expose students to this art form." Chupa teaches a quilt using a long-arm quilting machine. Her work extracts object details and montages them into still life compositions.

Professor of Practice in the department of theatre MARY HOEHLER, TO COME HEBEIR, is working with the three composers on this project. "We interviewed many candidates, but Reena Esmail really understood why we were doing this, the music, the women’s spirit in the work and the words," says Lee. "We had a good, common-sense discussion about making a new work together." Esmail is known for composing richly melodic works. A graduate of Juilliard and Yale School of Music, and a 2011-12 Fulbright grantee to India, Esmail’s work draws elements from both Western and Hindustani classical music. Her works have won commissions from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers and have been performed internationally. Lee selected the texts of the new works, focusing on American women writers. She chose Eleanor Roosevelt, Maya Angelou and Emily Dickinson. Additionally, Arlene Geller, a Bucks County poet, wrote a commissioned poem for the work. Lee sent the texts on to Esmail and provided suggestions regarding structure and tone of the piece. From these discussions, Esmail proposed an outline for a new work in five movements for 160 women singers and an orchestra. “I’m very excited to bring her work to Lehigh,” says Lee. “She’s a young, brilliant composer whose new work has been performed at major venues throughout the world. We had several conversations about the tone of the work. I wanted something that would be inspirational to the women at Lehigh. I am in my fourth year now teaching at Lehigh, and I so enjoy making music with the phenomenal women of Lehigh, so I thought this would be a great opportunity to celebrate and feature them in this new work.” Also on the program, titled Rise UP!, will be a work by Samezt, called Deh! Love Exist, for the men of Choral Arts. In keeping with the inspirational theme, the program concludes with Sunrise Mass by renowned

For this production, the set was repurposed to a new space. The original performances were held at Society Hill Playhouse. The original designer was brought back to make it work in the Walnut Street space, and Hoelscher designed a revised version of costumes for the play. The costumes were created in tandem with the actors’ interpretations of the characters in rehearsal workshops and design meetings. “The idea is that there’s a seamless integration and a process of discovery made based on experimentation with what you have available,” says Hoelscher. “The process works for this play because there are only three actors, all very familiar with the absurdist genre.” Not only was Hoelscher the costume designer, but she also serves as IRC’s associate producing director, a role she assumed in 2015. Hoelscher has designed IRC productions since 2010 and has worked on many plays with Tina Bras, the company’s co-founder and producing artistic director. Both have earned critical praise for their work as the IRC emerges itself for another 10 years, Hoelscher says. “Ten years is a huge accomplishment for a small company—to survive for that long and be actively producing. And they’re expanding, now doing staged readings, more work in the community to get audiences involved. The next few years will be exciting. It will be telling as to whether our work pays out and is something we can continue.”
In her new book, The Afterlives of Rape in Medieval English Literature, Suzanne Edwards, associate professor of English and director of Lehigh’s Humanities Center, investigates how medieval English literary culture from the 12th through the 15th centuries represents women’s survival of sexual violence. Despite the gaps in the written record, Edwards identifies a robust literary tradition of survival in works written in collaboration with, addressed to and read by women. For example, St. Augustine writes to rape victims after the sack of Rome, urging them to regard survival, rather than suicide, as a mark of virtue. Discourses of survival in works like Augustinian’s City of God outline language and concepts that medieval women who suffered sexual violence could use to make sense of their experience.

In the 12th and 13th centuries, letters of spiritual instruction addressed to religious women cast the survival of sexual violence as a form of redemptive sacrifice akin to Christ’s passion. This undervalued literary history of survival, Edwards contends, is an important counterbalance to the history of rape because it foregrounds women’s experiences and the cultural resources available to make sense of the after sexual assault. In her book, Edwards argues that these medieval representations of survival are deeply engaged with ethical questions about the will, embodiment and community obligations to those who have suffered traumatic violence that go beyond purifying passions.

“Several medieval discourses of survival are important in the 21st century because they have an enduring legacy in contemporary conversations about rape and its aftermath,” Edwards says. “Thus, they can help us to reflect more critically on the ways that we think about survivors of sexual violence and our responsibilities to them today.”

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Kathryn Iovine (left) and Linda Lowe-Krentz (right) are looking for an appropriate animal model. Heparin is an extracellular carbohydrate, a class of molecules that has interested Lowe-Krentz for a long time. Heparin is an anticoagulant (blood thinner) that prevents the formation of blood clots. The drug is used to treat and prevent blood clots in the veins, arteries or lungs. Less studied is the fact that heparin also alters wound repair and inflammation in blood vessels, and heparins is used in treatment of burn victims where excessive inflammation can be deadly. The zebrafish is a widely used model organism for studies on vertebrate development. One of its major advantages is the almost complete transparency of the embryos, which allows researchers to look at individual cells during development. The zebrafish is also responsive to genetics due to its relatively short generation time: typically two to three months. These two features make this organism well suited for expressing green fluorescent protein (GFP) or other fluorescent proteins using transgenic techniques. The zebrafish is a nice system to do this because it’s easy to monitor the vasculature in a transgenic fish that have GFP which labels all of the blood vessels, says Iovine. Using zebrafish allows researchers to see the blood vessels, which are easily visible in the fins.

“I’m fascinated by what that is something that is kind of new for me because I’m starting to look at the role of other extracellular carbohydrates in regulating skeletal growth,” she adds. “Because of the direct nature of our research is gaining to show that extracellular proteins and extracellular carbohydrates are contributing to controlling skeletal growth and patterning, I become more interested in these carbohydrates.”

“I’ve been thinking a lot about what they could be doing and what role they could be playing in the way cells communicate with each other. She was thinking about bringing her work into an animal model, and it only seemed natural that we think about fish. We’re doing methods I normally would do studying gene function in the fish, but we’re applying it to the vasculature of the fish.”

**EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

**Modeling Carbon**

For years, scientists have known that human activities that burn fossil fuels like coal and oil are pumping carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere much faster than it is removed by natural processes. The concentration of CO₂ accumulation in the atmosphere is one of the reasons why average global temperatures have been climbing over the last few decades. A newly developed model developed by Benjamin Felzer examines the full carbon accounting in North America from large-scale land use changes starting in the 1700s in a continuous cycle. This constant movement of carbon means that forests act as sources or sinks at different times.

“If you go out today and you take measurements of these carbon fluxes in our forests, you’ll find the U.S. is a pretty strong sink, and that’s because forests are recovering from past disturbances. This leads me to think that I have a question. When the disturbance happened, did the forest in that area recover? As part of an international collaboration, Reed and colleagues at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider, in Long Island, NY, smash together heavy ions with a large amount of mass, such as gold or lead, at nearly the speed of light. The resulting collision releases energy, creating a miniscule fireball and creating a quark-gluon plasma. The big question is how do we measure this thing?” says Reed, assistant professor of physics. “How do we learn anything about it at all, because when the collision happens, the matter exists for such an extremely short amount of time, then it expands because it’s exploding and cooling? It cools enough to where it becomes normal particles and we can measure with detectors.”

The quark-gluon plasma behaves more like a perfect fluid with small viscosity on the scale of a quark or gluon. The quark or gluon will travel through the plasma, and lose energy due to interactions with the plasma. Reed studies these so-called “hadron probes,” created in a collision of particles by nature the same way the universe was born. When two ions collide, two of their constituent nucleons sometimes collide with great energy, producing a quark-gluon plasma. As part of this arrangement, Reed spends two weeks annually at the collider for shifts, and other time to work on building detector upgrades.

“If we have a dedicated U.S. collider is something I should utility, given that I can drive there from Bethlehem,” she says. “It makes the experience that much better and I can take Lehman students to the colliders: We take a field trip recently and the students were able to go in and see the detectors. They learn these things the same way we do and it’s nice to see it happening in real life. I’ve also taken research assistants with me. It’s good for them to see the actual work taking place.”

High energy physics is a young field, but Reed’s work has application in understanding in what happened in the creation of the universe. “If we build back the universe, it gets hotter and denser as we go back in time. At some point in the universe’s history this temperature was so high that electrons were no longer held in their orbits, no longer held in their orbits, neutrons and protons were unstrained, it’s really very cool to be studying something so very basic to the way the universe works.”
Uprooting themselves from Brazil, migration of their own volition. New World. Essien (right) traced descendants who returned from Brazil to Ghana. The slave fort Emina in Ghana held many slaves until they were shipped to the Western Hemisphere, nearly
mines. During this time, 10 to 15
had been captured in West Africa
the Atlantic carrying people who
century, countless ships crossed
ocean begins to narrow like an
near the equator where the vast
his eyes are drawn to a point
When Kwame Essien looks at
HISTORY
In the 1800s, a relative handful
arrived in Ghana around the 1830s
leaders. João Antonio Nelson, who
died in 2009 at the age of 93.
Essien includes
photos he obtained
from government
and family records.
most notable is a
black-and-white photo
on the title page of
a 19th-century
sailing ship. The boat is moving
across the water, Essien says,
ofering symbolic promise to the
slaves who sailed in Brazil.
“the migrants put their trust in
whoever was steering the ship
to take them to the place that might
be their home. The ship was the
point connecting the known and
the unknown. Not everyone knew
where they were going, but everyone
knew they had to go on, they had
to leave Brazil. If they got on the
ship, they might find their home.
“there were no guarantees
they would find their home. Even
after they made it to Africa, there
was no guarantee that being there
would ensure their freedom. So the
boat represented a risk that people
took because there was no guar-
antee of freedom at all in Brazil.”

became the second Brazilian chief
(leader of the Brazilian diaspora) in
Accra, Ghana’s capital. Ferku, a
famed Brazilian slave, settled in Lagos, Nigeria, moved to Accra and then
conquered the Atlantic before
dying in Lagos in the 1930s, leaving
behind an estranged wife and an
unknown land dispute. Emina T.
Woode, the current chief justice of
Ghana’s Supreme Court, made a
pledge to his ancestors’ home in
Brazil in 2011. George Anna Nelson,
grandson of João Antonio Nelson,
died in 2009 at the age of 93.
Essien, “What is my story of the
Brazilian-African diaspora in Ghana
is so complex,” says Essien, “That is
why I am not interested in getting
only about the families for
whom I could find court records and
other documents.”
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Sociologist Kelly Austin is leading a growing program that explores the intersections of health and society

In many ways, Kelly F. Austin’s research is all about connections and helping to create better relationships between the world’s health care system and the people it serves.

An assistant professor of sociology, Austin describes herself as a “macro-comparative sociologist” who is interested in large-scale patterns in development across nations. “Specifically, my research examines global trends in health and environmental outcomes, and the nexus between the two.”

Most of her current published research, she adds, encompasses cross-national projects that use large samples from nations to see general patterns among them. In addition, she typically spends eight to 10 weeks each summer in rural Uganda.

While there, she does a mix of things, including supervising about six Lehigh undergraduate students in their research projects and local internships, as well as furthering aspects of her own research critiquing international health aid and examining patterns in diseases, like malaria. “One project continued this past summer,” Austin explains, “is focused on unmasking a hidden malaria burden in Bududa, Uganda. A large proportion of malaria cases are missed from official disease statistics in this region due to people self-treating from local drug shops, rather than being tested, treated and counted in a formal clinical setting.”

For this research, Austin interviewed a mix of community members and health workers and also spent considerable time while in Uganda volunteering and working at local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and health clinics.

Her research transfers to the classroom; Austin is also Director of Lehigh’s health, medicine and society (HMS) program, which, if all goes according to plan, should also be offered as a major, rather than just a minor, in Fall 2017. It was launched in 2008, and is in growing to response to a number of factors, according to Austin, such as increased student demand, enhanced faculty interest and specialization, and changes in the health sector—leading to more jobs in a variety of health fields. The health, medicine, and society field focuses on the social scientific and humanistic dimensions of health and medical care to develop an understanding of the impact of health, illness, and medicine on individuals, families, and societies. The HMS minor serves students who wish to be involved in some aspect of the healthcare industry or health policy and as well as students who are interested in communications, the pharmaceutical industry, law, business, agency work, and other careers where understanding health or healthcare is essential.

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Austin began working at Lehigh in August 2012 and says she was attracted to the university because of its support for interdisciplinary research and teaching. “I really enjoy working with faculty and students from across the HMS; Global Studies; Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies; Environmental Initiative, and African Studies programs, as each of these touches on a key aspect of my research,” she says. “I also really liked the balance between teaching and research at Lehigh, and how teaching is valued alongside quality research.”

The classes Austin teaches include “Research Methods & Data Analysis,” “Global Health,” “Political Economy of Globalization,” and “Environmental Sociology.”

The HMS minor is currently common among students who are pre-med, often biological science or behavioral neuroscience majors. HMS is also popular among students who are interested in going on to a master’s in public health programs or students who are interested in health, medicine, or healthcare careers.

“Many of these students pair the HMS minor with majors in psychology, sociology, political science, global studies, English or a variety of other majors,” Austin adds.

In terms of career paths, many HMS students become health practitioners in some way, such as physicians, physician assistants, clinical psychologists, and physical therapists. “A growing number of minors are interested in careers in public health, with many going on to get master’s in public health degrees, or moving into the public health sector directly as researchers, administrative assistants, grant writers, etc. We have students that have gotten jobs at NGOs, health insurance companies, in pharmaceutical sales, foundations and research groups. I am always amazed at the diversity of jobs that are related to health that our alumni are placed in,” she says.

Still, Austin maintains that while programs like HMS seem to be growing in popularity in public and private universities across the country, the number of them overall is still fairly limited. Few, she says, are as well-rounded as the HMS program at Lehigh.

“One thing that I have noticed is that our program has medical humanities offer—perhaps include one ethics elective. I am happy our program has medical humanities offerings and faculty that include and go beyond the area of medical ethics. I am also excited that we will be gaining an additional HMS faculty member in medical humanities next year.”

In addition to growing in the area of medical humanities, Austin says there is a subset of faculty interested in community health, and she believes this will be a key area of activity and growth in the HMS program in coming semesters.

In fact, the faculty has created a Community Health Research Group (CHRG), which includes three new professors in areas of community health with cross-over in the sociology and psychology departments in the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as the College of Education.

“The CHRG just received a collaborative research grant to do a type of health-needs assessment using a method called ‘photovoice’ where community members take and share pictures of health challenges in their community,” Austin says. This project is set to start in September 2016.

The grant includes funding for student researchers to work with citizens as co-researchers and liaisons. “The CHRG hopes this grant will represent just the beginning of funded, collaborative projects involving faculty and students at Lehigh and the local Bethlehem community,” she says.
Creating a Hub for Interdisciplinary Activity

College offers students and faculty avenues to work with a broad array of knowledge suited to approaching complex problems

In the hands of Lehigh students in the interdisciplinary Sustainable Development program, Kelpy's shape is also underdetermined—a snack chip, or perhaps a cracker, made with kelp. Its intentions, however, are universally beneficial: to boost kelp farming as a way to protect river deltas from eutrophication due to excess fertilizer runoff, thereby creating jobs to replace those being lost in the struggling fishing industry while bestowing health benefits on all who snack on it.

Yes, at Lehigh, the interdisciplinary work being done by students is more powerful than myth.

"What I like about this project is the potential to have identified such a win-win-win situation," says Mark Orrs, director of Lehigh's Sustainable Development program. "It's a win for the ocean, it's a win for the consumer, it's a win for the fishermen who are now losing their jobs who could transition into farming help.

"It's a win for all of us because the more farming we can do in the ocean, instead of on land, the more land that's freed up to go back to its original purposes, as opposed to being converted for human use for farming."

The Kelpy project is just one of many that illustrate the synergistic energy that has flourished around interdisciplinary programs at Lehigh. It was the idea of an IDEAS—short for Integrated Degree in Engineering and Arts and Sciences—major named William Kuehne '17 and brought together an interdisciplinary Sustainable Development program, interdisciplinary to her academic core.

"Interdisciplinary is, to me, a logical extension of what we mean when we say a liberal arts education," Krassa says. "I think everybody should be interdisciplinary and have that experience of what it means to look at your field through a different lens or multiple different lenses. Or to talk with people who approach a problem from a completely different perspective. I think, increasingly, that simply reflects the complexity of the world."

Although she has been an academic for more than two decades, Krassa, who is also associate professor of sociology and former associate professor of anthropology and director of the interdisciplinary Global Studies program, says integrating interdisciplinary programs within the institution’s administration is significant and further advances Lehigh’s well-deserved reputation as a leader in the field.

Having earned a rare interdisciplinary Ph.D. from Columbia University in sustainable development, Orrs was initially drawn to Lehigh by the new Sustainable Development program being launched. But the more he learned about Lehigh, he says, the more he came to understand that the commitment to interdisciplinary studies and the application of knowledge go all the way back to founder Asa Packer.

"We had a head start, and people have not caught up, I would say. There’s a lot of institutional memory and a lot of institutional learning that goes along with that, and I think that’s why," Orrs says. "It’s one thing to copy someone’s program on the books but quite another thing to actually institutionalize that and embed it within the culture."

Remember those ubiquitous TV commercials from the 1980s for Hair Club for Men? They featured founder Sy Sperling telling viewers: "I’m not just the Hair Club president; I’m also a client!"

It could well be said that Krassa isn’t just the associate dean of interdisciplinary programs and international initiatives; she is interdisciplinary to her academic core.

"Interdisciplinary is, to me, a logical extension of what we mean when we say a liberal arts education," Krassa says. "I think everybody should be interdisciplinary and have that experience of what it means to look at your field through a different lens or multiple different lenses. Or to talk with people who approach a problem from a completely different perspective. I think, increasingly, that simply reflects the complexity of the world."

Although she has been an academic for more than two decades, Krassa, who is also associate professor of sociology and former associate professor of anthropology and director of the interdisciplinary Global Studies program, says integrating interdisciplinary programs within the institution’s administration is significant and further advances Lehigh’s well-deserved reputation as a leader in the field.

In Scottish mythology, kelpies were a supernatural, shape-shifting water spirit that often appeared as a horse, guarding rivers and streams. In most tellings, it was a malevolent creature, luring unsuspecting humans to a watery grave. In others, it protected water fowl and saved humans from drowning.

So one project that was itself highly interdisciplinary advanced with a boost from four different interdisciplinary programs at Lehigh.

The growth of interdisciplinary programs led College of Arts and Sciences Dean Donald Hall to begin planning an Office of Interdisciplinary Programs and International Initiatives when he arrived five years ago. For Hall, whose background is in interdisciplinary cultural studies, it was a natural fit for his own academic passions.

"Part of the richness of what we offer in the College of Arts and Sciences is a diverse array of programs, including our interdisciplinary programs," he says. "Interdisciplinary learning moves students outside their comfort zones, often to discover what other cultures are saying about the same problems and understand how the wealth of diversity within American culture teaches us new ways of approaching complex social challenges."

The office, led by Associate Dean Jackie Krasas, coordinates administrative support services and fosters collaboration among the college’s 20-plus interdisciplinary programs.

"I think you see this kind of convergence of interest where students are looking for opportunities to cross disciplinary boundaries and get multiple perspectives, and faculty are interested in pursuing those collaborations outside of disciplinary silos," says Bruce Whithouse, associate professor of anthropology and director of the interdisciplinary Global Studies program.

Orrs, who came to Lehigh four years ago as the first director of the Sustainable Development program, says integrating interdisciplinary programs within the institution’s administration is significant and further advances Lehigh’s well-deserved reputation as a leader in the field.

If you want to see what interdisciplinary looks like at Lehigh University, meet Kelpy. In Scottish mythology, kelpies were a supernatural, shape-shifting water spirit that often appeared as a horse, guarding rivers and streams. In most tellings, it was a malevolent creature, luring unsuspecting humans to a watery grave. In others, it protected water fowl and saved humans from drowning.
director of Lehigh’s interdisciplinary Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies program, she says, “has never actually worked in a strictly departmental sense.”

She earned her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Southern California but also got an interdisciplinary gender studies certificate that required her to take courses in areas outside of her field, such as law and English.

“These were frightening things for me to do at the time but also turned out to be the best things I did in my graduate career,” she says. Before coming to Lehigh in 2005 as the first full-time director of the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies program, Krasas was a faculty member of Penn State University’s interdisciplinary department of labor studies and industrial relations for a decade.

“There were a couple of sociologists, we had economists, we had political scientists, historians, attorneys—and it made me a better sociologist to work there,” she says. “I learned a lot of things that I wouldn’t have otherwise learned. It can be an uncomfortable space, in terms of you’re walking into areas that are new. I think that’s exciting. I think that the kinds of issues that we face these days increasingly require interdisciplinary approaches, sort of an all-hands-on-deck approach.”

Having spent her academic career working in interdisciplinary programs, Krasas brings a deep understanding of the challenges that can arise.

“As much as Lehigh is doing great work with interdisciplinary, universities still are residually organized around departments,” Krasas says. “And every time you turn around, you find something else that’s a little bit odd or different or difficult for interdisciplinary programs because it comes from a time when we were organized by departments and didn’t have these programs.”

The interdisciplinary programs remain autonomous and do not report to the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs and International Initiatives. “I see it more as helping them to function in the world that is Lehigh and then bringing them together to collaborate and form a group of colleagues who work together across very different kinds of topics,” Krasas says.

In addition to Sustainable Development and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, the programs supported by the office highlight the impressive diversity encompassed by interdisciplinary majors and minors in the College of Arts and Sciences: African Studies; American Studies; Asian Studies; Berman Center for Jewish Studies; Center for Global Islamic Studies; Classical Studies; Cognitive Science; Community Fellows; Digital Humanities; Eckardt Scholars; Environmental Initiatives and Environmental Studies; Environmental Policy Design; Ethics Series; Gipson Institute for 18th Century Studies; Global Citizenship; Global Studies; Grants for Experimental Learning in Health (GELH); Health, Medicine and Society; Humanities Center; Latin American Studies; and Science, Technology and Society. Beyond the undergraduate components, many of the programs offer graduate student elements, while others offer interdisciplinary approaches to scholarships.

One problem common to all institutions with programs that cross departmental boundaries is how to fairly evaluate faculty who are hired into a specific department while also having responsibilities to an interdisciplinary program. “One way that’s done is through Memoranda of Understanding, so a faculty member who comes in with significant responsibilities in another unit will have one of these documents that spells out what they’re supposed to be doing and how they’re supposed to be evaluated,” Krasas says. “We’re trying to be clear. If you’re not clear about it, then faculty end up doing more. They get spread very, very thin. Lehigh is moving the institutional apparatus to reflect better how faculty actually do their work.”

The Office of Interdisciplinary Programs and International Initiatives also helps organize hundreds of events every year, many of which involve multiple programs. In March, for example, the office handled arrangements for the four-day interdisciplinary, international conference “Feminisms Beyond the Secular: Emerging Epistemologies and Politics in the 21st Century.”

The conference was a collaboration between the Office of International Affairs, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Humanities Center; Global Studies; African Studies; Global Citizenship; and Religion Studies.

“Something I like to say to prospective students and their parents is the jobs that young people need to be prepared for today, in many cases, don’t exist yet,” Whitehouse says. “If you’re going to get a single, traditional disciplinary degree, you’re getting one particular tool to use on one particular problem. With Global Studies, you’re getting a Swiss Army knife with multiple tools you can apply to different contexts for different reasons,” Whitehouse says. “No one of those tools is probably as useful at any single task as the tool that you would get from the discipline. But we think it’s more important to have a versatile toolkit that you can apply to multiple issues and bring in multiple perspectives than it is to have one heavily specialized tool that’s extremely useful for a highly particular type of situation.”

Krasas admits to being biased but says she firmly believes that interdisciplinary programs are “really excellent intellectual spaces. I think they’re a lot of fun if you’re a student, and I mean that intellectually. And for me as a faculty member, it’s a lot of fun to be engaged with people coming from different areas. I am so privileged to have all these very rich discussions.

“Someone’s always stretching, and that’s a really invigorating intellectual space to be in,” she adds. “It’s like intellectual candy. It really is.”
When she entered history professor Steven Cutcliffe’s classroom as a Lehigh undergraduate, Carrie Rich ’07 realized she was in for an unusual learning experience. Not one other student registered for the seminar-style course. Rich was surprised the course hadn’t been canceled.

Cutcliffe, who was also her advisor and director of the science, technology, and society program, took the success of his students seriously; he started the course that semester with a single student. He engaged Rich through lively discussions and readings and even took his teaching out of the classroom into the real world. Another student joined later, but it was still an unusually intense course.

“We used the Socratic dialogue method to learn, so I had to be on all the time, work really hard, and think and respond on the fly,” recalled Rich. “Professor Cutcliffe challenged me to think differently about what I knew, how I thought, and how I navigated through thinking creatively, which has served me well professionally. He encouraged me to volunteer in the community. I volunteered at a nonprofit health center, where I learned the meaning of gratitude.”

Rich counts her experiences with this course as significantly formative in her later decision to start the Global Good Fund (GGF). As cofounder and CEO, she created the company in 2012 to accelerate the leadership development of entrepreneurs across the globe using business for social good. Rich connects established business executives with emerging social entrepreneurs to be mentored, scale their companies and ultimately address complex social issues. Underpinned by robust analysis of the global, economical, environmental and social factors that determine individual and societal health, GGF’s philosophy aims to improve lives around the world.

For his part, Cutcliffe was impressed. “She was always prepared for class, [she was] a good discussant and an enthusiastic researcher,” he said.

During her senior year, Rich won the Francis Shoemaker Award, given to the STS student who best demonstrates “outstanding academic achievement, qualities of leadership and potential for professional excellence.”

Cutcliffe wasn’t the only professor whom Rich counts as much for influencing her. Sociology professor Judith Lasker provided Rich with untapped opportunities for health and human studies learning. “Professor Lasker helped me grow as a thinker. She gave me research that I didn’t know existed. She helped me remember that there is always an opportunity to design something that works, ” Rich said.

Art professor Berndtso Booth inspired Rich as well. “He creates a beautiful world while championing causes that matter, all while surmounting personal burdens that many people would find insurmountable. He gave me a sense of hope and resiliency—as an entrepreneur, you have to keep getting up,” she said.

Her professors encouraged her to develop her abilities for long-term success. Even as a student, Rich says she felt she was making a difference. She stepped outside her comfort zone and joined the step team, though she was not familiar with the dance form.

“We had an absolute ball. It made me appreciate what it was like to be a team player,” she said. This understanding informs Rich’s work with the GGF, as many of the people it helps are living as racial, ethnic or economic minorities. Her experiences in Leadership Lehigh were also transformative, as was her service as a residential assistant. “Each opportunity taught me about leadership. I learned how to nurture other people, not just myself,” she says.

After Lehigh, Rich entered graduate school at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., to study health systems administration. While at Georgetown, she began working for Potomac Will, an architecture and design firm, and interned with Inova Health System, a leading health organization in the D.C. region. Her work included mapping floors and folding baby laundry. She seized this opportunity to build her network.

“Sometimes opportunities are masked as hard work,” Rich says.

Her chance came when she was assigned to take attendance for a meeting that Ken Singleton, Inova’s CEO, would join. She knew Singleton had grown Inova from one small hospital to a multi-billion-dollar organization—all while volunteering in Haiti for more than 25 years. Rich surmised that he cared about making the world a better place.

“I wondered why the CEO of a big company would want to speak with me, an intern. I figured Mr. Singleton cared about legacy, so I asked his assistant for a meeting on that topic—a topic different from what I imagined he normally talks about. I got dressed up in formal business attire and attempted to be as professional as possible. I was so enthralled by our initial meeting that I blurted out, ‘Would you write a book with me?’”

To Rich’s surprise, Singleton replied, “Yes,” and asked her what they should write about.

Soon, it emerged that both individuals were interested in the principle of sustainability to make health care more effective.

Rich helped structure Singleton’s thinking on the subject along with another co-author. Sustainability for Healthcare: Medicine at the Center is to have a second edition, with Rich as one of the three co-authors.

In the meantime, Rich continued working at Potomac Will, which she described as a “great place to work.” She also taught as an adjunct faculty member at Georgetown University, where she developed a Healthcare Sustainability program curriculum. One day, Singleton and Rich had a meeting where the CEO decided to have a second edition, with Rich as one of the three co-authors.

In the summer of 2009, Rich was invited to attend a meeting that Knox Singleton, Inova’s CEO, would join. She knew Singleton had grown Inova from one small hospital to a multi-billion-dollar organization—all while volunteering in Haiti for more than 25 years. Rich surmised that he cared about making the world a better place.

“I started thinking, what if we could find young people throughout the world who have a strong work ethic and care about making the world a better place but lack experience? Could we pair these emerging leaders with experienced business leaders and put targeted financial capital behind the pair—what a catalyst for good that dynamic would be.”

Her concept began forming on her 26th birthday. Singleton gave her $100, saying that instead of taking her lunch to her birthday, she should use it for her idea. Rich approached six organizations she knew and asked each to submit a proposal for what they would do with 10 times the amount of her birthday gift if it had a sustainable social impact. Inspired by their responses, Rich wrote to her friends and family for donations, with the subject heading: “The Global Good Fund.” She beat her $6,000 goal, raising $6,092.

Two weeks later, Rich received an email from someone who said they’d met at a conference and offered a $1 million anonymous contribution.

“Now I didn’t know what to do. I went to [Singleton], and he ended up matching the gift,” she said. In three months, Rich had $2 million startup capital for her dream of funding global good.

Though Rich loved her job, Singleton encouraged her to go beyond what felt comfortable. He supported building a board of directors and advisors that could get the GGF started. The board asked her to lead the organization.

Today, we have a small staff, and we have supported 38 social entrepreneurs to date. Half are domestic. Half are nonprofits with sustainable revenue streams. More than half of the entrepreneurs we support are women, which is important to me,” she says.

GGF has indirectly helped create 100,000 jobs in some of the most underserved communities around the world. Recently, the company planned a field trip to the United Nations in New York, which brought together some of the people the GGF has helped.

“People are looking for structured, meaningful ways to translate their business success into social significance. We’re exclusively focused on growing the leadership capacity of social entrepreneurs who are at a critical inflection point, a point at which their leadership will influence whether they will have sustainable social impact,” Rich explained.

Rich also teaches at George Washington University and the Amani Alliance 50 under 40 and Empact100.

Institute in Kenya and writes for media outlets, including Forbes, Entrepreneur and Huffington Post. She sits on the boards of several companies and organizations and has been lauded for her achievements. She received the EV Entrepreneur of the Year award, POLITICO Women Who Rule award, Washington Business Journal 40 under 40, Entrepreneur.com Top Start-ups to Watch, Stevie Award for Women in Business, Asian Social Innovation CEO of the Year, Social Enterprise Alliance 50 under 40 and Impact100.

When a new challenge enters her life, Rich thinks of the children’s story Harold and the Purple Crayon. Harold draws what doesn’t exist. “It helps me remember that there is always an opportunity to design something great if it adds value and makes a difference in the world!” she said. •
Growing up in parched southern California, water has always intrigued Michael Quesada '16G. Having completed his master's degree in environmental policy design in August, Quesada used his background in social sciences and humanities to analyze the influence of market theory on the laws that govern the Colorado River Basin.

With a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in political science, Quesada graduated from the University of La Verne in 2011 and worked for a few years before deciding to explore his interest in the natural world. Today, Quesada is part of the environmental policy design program, which provides an intensive study of the theoretical roots that structure policy related to the environment and how to evaluate policy processes and outcomes.

Market theory addresses the use of market presuppositions and principles to allocate resources. Quesada's master's thesis focused on the Colorado River Basin. Quesada describes the system as having a hierarchical structure in which those with the most senior rights are guaranteed to receive their share of water first in relation to those with junior rights.

"Historically there has been minimum intervention at the state level because states let the market drive itself, " Quesada says. "This helps facilitate people's wants, which means those who are able to use the water get it. Others can claim rights to a source, but only after the upper-level population have taken their share."

Prior appropriation is at the core of the Law of the River. Established in 1922 through the Colorado River Compact, the law now consists of various compacts, federal laws, international treaties, regulations, and court decisions. Quesada examines the effects of prior appropriation to determine the doctrine's ability to distribute water in a manner that is beneficial to humanity and nature. The theory underlies the practice, he says, so the two must be analyzed together in order to evaluate the system's success. Research must go beyond the letter of the law and must look at what the law represents according to Quesada. This is the difference between law and policy design, a concept he says often confuses people.

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Increased efficiency is another approach that Quesada dismisses. While it has the potential to increase water supply for all, overpopulation prevents a rise in efficiency; the extra water saved is offset by usage from the increasing number of people dependent on The Basin.

In fact, overpopulation is Quesada's main concern and his research finds it to be the biggest threat to natural resources. He says that The Basin's carrying capacity has been nearly surpassed, if not already, as a result of population increase. "You can't continue to have population growth and still have a sufficient water supply when there's only a finite amount of it."

Quesada's solution is similar to that of China's: a one-child policy to curb population growth, a solution that he admits is provocative, controversial and highly unlikely to be enacted in the United States. It's a dramatic change but, he believes, a necessary one.

"Our lifestyles have an impact on the earth, " Quesada says. "So we need to make changes if we want humanity to survive."

But we are our own obstacle, Quesada adds. We have a tendency to suppose what we know is necessary and act on our wants instead. He argues that people make excuses to not make changes by telling themselves that change isn't critical. Until we acknowledge that dramatic changes are required, any attempt to make them will always fail.

Unfortunately, our water supply is depleting faster than our desire to fundamentally change. Strict, enforceable policies are crucial in making our behavior less harmful to the environment. Quesada questions our ability to change our own behavior, and he says it is one of the reasons he has such a strong interest in policy design.

"We're not willing to make the improvements ourselves, " he says. "So we need to make policies that will force us to do it."

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"We're not willing to make the improvements ourselves, " he says. "So we need to make policies that will force us to do it."

After leaving Lehigh, this is exactly what he plans to do. "I want to work for a nonprofit organization or a research institute that is focused on crafting policy that catalyzes fundamental change and benefits humanity and nature."

Quesada says that water's intrinsic contribution to our well-being and nature is a responsibility that we all share. "Everybody needs water, " he says. "So everybody needs to do their part."
Keeping Zoellner in the SPOTLIGHT

Ollie Foucek strives to grow the arts at Lehigh
by Leslie Feldman

Ollie Foucek, ’77

By day Oldham, “Ollie” Foucek ’77 is an attorney with Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A. in Allentown, PA. In his free time, he serves on chair of the fundraising committee for Lehigh University’s Zoellner Arts Center.

The Center opened in 1997 as the home to Lehigh’s music department, the department of theatre, the art galleries and the guest artist series, all of which share the same technical, marketing and administrative staff, venue and equipment. The building houses three theatres: the 1,000-seat proscenium Baker Hall, the 300-seat Diamond Theater, a 125-seat black box theatre, as well as a two-story art gallery, state-of-the-art recording studio, and several large classrooms.

“This year, the Arts Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary, which coincides with the University sesquicentennial,” says Foucek. “So, Foucek explains that Zoellner Arts Center has an advantage in that it’s connected with Lehigh University; but the budgetary pressures on a non-profit arts organization is not at all different from running any other business enterprise. It requires a lot of revenue and community support.”

Foucek did not grow up in an artistic family. Having grandparents who were Czech immigrants, being able to design and build something concrete was perceived as valuable to self and society. His father studied engineering before enlisting in the Army Air Corps during WWII and his mother was a draftsman for many years before completing her studies and becoming a civil engineer. “I was encouraged to become an engineer. I grew up on Long Island and my family also had a summer home in the foothills of the Poconos. So, when it came time to look at colleges with strong engineering programs not far from home, Lehigh was first on the list. I applied early decision and was accepted early in the fall.”

Foucek found that the ease with which an undergraduate can switch majors, and even colleges, is one of Lehigh’s enduring qualities. Another peculiar strength, he found, is the requirement that freshmen engineers take courses in the humanities. “So, for Foucek, that meant that once he realized he was performing appreciably better in freshman English and American history than in calculus, chemistry and physics, he transferred to the College of Arts & Sciences at the end of freshman year.”

“The decision to major in American Studies was driven largely by my experiences with the faculty teaching American literature and American history. I was particularly influenced by David Amidon, Roger Simon and Joe Dowling in history and Jim Frakes, Bob Harson and Jack DeBella in English. The small class size and ready access to the faculty were particular attractive to me.”

Foucek’s decision to apply to law school happened after his junior year. Until then, he had thought of pursuing graduate studies in history and teaching at the college level. However, he says that Dr. Dowling cautioned that getting a teaching position, even with a degree from a top-rate graduate program, was going to very hard,” because it was the height of the Vietnam War and many young men enrolled in doctoral programs sought to extend their student deferments by getting teaching jobs. “So, after considering my options, Case Western Reserve University Law School in Cleveland, Ohio, was where I headed.”

Lehigh not only provided Foucek with a wonderful academic experience, allowing him to acquire a depth of knowledge in a core humanities curriculum that has proved very valuable, but it also challenged him to interact with a wide variety of people, consider diverse opinions and seize leadership opportunities. “Each relationship formed at Lehigh, including those with faculty and administrators, impacted me positively and allowed me to grow as a person.”

Once out of law school, Foucek chose to work for a law firm in Allentown: Tallman, Holders & Sorrentino. That was over 40 years ago and, while that firm has gone through some transitions since then (the most significant, a merger with New York and New Jersey-based Norris McLaughlin & Marcus), he continues to work with some of the same people he began his career with and, amazingly, some of the same clients.

“The Lehigh Valley has grown in population and influence over the past four decades; but, with respect to the practice of law, it has remained compact and intimate,” says Foucek, who practices business law. “Over the years, many of my clients have become friends. Likewise, I consider the other lawyers in my firm to be part of a professional family, where we help each other out inside and outside the office. I’ve had the good fortune to work on matters involving many different legal issues. That has allowed me to keep learning and to stay motivated.”

Foucek lives in Allentown with his wife, Andrea, a retired school psychologist. They have two daughters, both Lehigh alums, Alexis, ’05 and Arielle, ’09. Along with his Lehigh volunteer responsibilities (which have included 10 years on the Board of Trustees and a term as President of the Alumni Association), Foucek chairs the Allentown City Planning Commission, is on the Executive Committee of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Board of the Allentown Neighborhood Improvement Zone Development Authority (ANIZDA) and is secretary of his golf club.

Like he told his daughters when entering Lehigh, “students should take some time to appreciate fully all that Lehigh has to offer before making some conscious decisions about how best to spend their precious time.” He says that includes deciding on a major (and perhaps minor) and what extracurricular activities they’ll participate in. “Also, Lehigh, by virtue of its size and culture, offers the opportunity for a student to develop mentoring relationships that are invaluable not only during the student’s time on campus, but long afterward; and, those relationships should be sought out and cultivated.”

For more information about how you can give to Zoellner or the arts at Lehigh, please contact Kelly Stazi, director of development, at kbs415@lehigh.edu or 610-758-2824.
Jenna Pastorini ’17 examines a trauma-based cultural syndrome in Cambodia

by Robert Nichols

More than 1.7 million people — nearly a quarter of Cambodia’s population — were killed by execution, disease, starvation and overwork under the Khmer Rouge’s brutal rule from 1975 to 1979. Some 40 years later, the resulting trauma permeates much of the country’s culture. Cognitive science major Jenna Pastorini ’17 is attempting to better understand subsequent Cambodian mental health issues as part of a cross-cultural study exploring beliefs surrounding post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The study is a perfect dovetail for Pastorini. Cognitive science students must write a senior thesis incorporating two of the program’s six academic pillars. As part of her project, Pastorini spent four weeks in Cambodia in the winter of 2015 as part of Lehigh’s Global Citizenship program, where she met with members of Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), an NGO. TPO is Cambodia’s leading NGO in the field of mental health care and psychological support. There she learned of baksbat.

Pastorini has previous experience with Khmer culture. She toured the kingdom in the winter of 2015 as part of Lehigh’s Global Citizenship program where she met with members of Interdisciplinary graduate student engagement (IGSE) to develop a baseline working in Cambodia. You have to understand how intertwined everything is. I needed to learn about the government, the politics and the ground-level realities of genocide. I needed to really get a grasp on these factors to begin to understand how they impact mental health.

Professor of Practice Sothy Eng, TPO’s executive director and a renowned executive director and a renowned and depression, yet the disorder possesses enough features to be recognized as a formal cultural trauma syndrome distinct from PTSD. “Cambodia suffered a horrible loss and they’re still living in the devastation that occurred,” says Pastorini. “Baksbat is an attempt to put a name on what the people are suffering from because their symptoms weren’t properly recognized in the parameters of PTSD. People who experience baksbat are withdrawn from society, cannot find it with them to speak up and do not want to be tuned in. You just want to be passed by. It was something I heard in conversation sometimes, but it was rarely addressed as a mental illness.”

The recipient of GELH and Strohl grants, Pastorini anticipates returning to Cambodia during the break between semesters to continue her research. She hopes to collect data from students at Royal University of Phnom Penh on PTSD-related issues, then compare the data to PTSD-related information she is collecting from Lehigh undergraduate students.

“I went to Cambodia expecting that nobody would be using the word PTSD, that the only word people would be using was baksbat. Interestingly, baksbat is a verb, not a noun, which makes a huge difference. We don’t say, ‘I am PTSD.’ We say, ‘I have (PTSD).’ I got such an interesting array of answers from Cambodians.”

Pastorini’s work involved meeting with government officials, staff at a children’s hospital and officials from Caring for Cambodia. At the end of her trip, Pastorini discussed her work with Sothyara Chhim, TPO’s executive director and a renowned Khmer mental health researcher, who coined the term baksbat. “Baksbat is not something that’s commonly talked about because most everyone suffers it,” she says. “Everyone has a story, so they don’t really look to care for people’s repercussions because everyone suffered the repercussions. It’s such a different collectivist perspective than America, which is so individualistic. It was interesting to see that difference. Many people had never heard of baksbat as a mental illness, so there was the discrepancy between what I was expecting to hear and what I actually heard.”

Aspiring to be a psychiatrist, Pastorini hopes to attend medical school after graduating from Lehigh. She says she also envisions possibly returning to work for an NGO in Cambodia.

“The Cambodian government allocates 0.02 percent of its health budget to mental health. There isn’t access for people suffering from mental illness. There is also a lack of psychiatric education and the overall idea of mental health illness is still new. A large population of Cambodians don’t yet know how to recognize it. They do not know there are resources for them, if there are any. The government isn’t putting them in a place to easily access that help.”

Pastorini hopes to fill that gap.

Broken Courage

Jenna Pastorini ’17 examines a trauma-based cultural syndrome in Cambodia

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Project
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